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**SENATE BILL NO. 22**

Senate Amendments in [ ] - January 20, 2012

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 58.1-3219.5, relating to real property tax exemption for disabled veterans.*

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Patrons Prior to Engrossment—Senators Stuart and McDougle

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Referred to Committee on Finance**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That §§ 58.1-3219.5 is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 58.1-3219.5. Exemption from taxes on property for disabled veterans.

A. Pursuant to Article X, Section 6-A of the Constitution of Virginia, and for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, the General Assembly hereby exempts from taxation the real property, including the joint real property of husband and wife, of any veteran who has been rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor agency pursuant to federal law to have a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability, and who occupies the real property as his principal place of residence. *If the veteran's disability rating occurs after January 1, 2011, and he has a qualified primary residence on the date of the rating, then the exemption for him under this section begins on the date of such rating. [ However, no county, city, or town shall be liable for any interest or penalties on any refund due to the veteran for taxes paid prior to the veteran's filing of the affidavit or written statement required by § 58.1-3219.6. ]*

B. The surviving spouse of a veteran eligible for the exemption set forth in this article shall also qualify for the exemption, so long as the death of the veteran occurs on or after January 1, 2011, the surviving spouse does not remarry, and the surviving spouse continues to occupy the real property as his principal place of residence.

C. A county, city, or town shall provide for the exemption from real property taxes the qualifying dwelling pursuant to this section, and shall provide for the exemption from real property taxes the land, not exceeding one acre, upon which it is situated. However, if a county, city, or town provides for an exemption from or deferral of real property taxes of more than one acre of land pursuant to Article 2 (§ 58.1-3210 et seq.) of this chapter, then the county, city, or town shall also provide an exemption for the same number of acres pursuant to this section.

ENGROSSED

SB22E